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(2022)

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No time to wait: How rapid NGS changed cancer care, 11/22:24

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Pharmaceuticals/prescriptions/pharmacy

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In fee schedule, an increase to pathology clinical labor rates, 12/22:01

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Emergency department tests HIV screening strategy, 07/22:05

Predictive markers/predictive marker testing

What's required in '23 for predictive marker tests, 09/22:27

Prescribing patterns

The impact of diagnostics on antimicrobial decisions, 04/22:44

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New illustrated guide to bone marrow based on PT, 03/22:40

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Roche releases newest AI-based digital pathology algorithms, 01/22:62

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Quidel to acquire Ortho, 01/22:61

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Study: chronic HBV, latent TB coinfections and testing, 08/22:46
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CellaVision launches workflow solution for low-volume hematology labs, 08/22:45
New add-on digital pathology codes, 08/22:45
For *HER2*-mutant NSCLC, FDA grants accelerated approval to Enhertu, approves companion diagnostics, 09/22:54
FDA approves Enhertu for patients with *HER2*-low metastatic breast cancer, 09/22:54

AMP publishes *TPMT* and *NUDT15* report, 09/22:54
Rapid AST system receives breakthrough device designation, 09/22:53
FDA approves CDx to identify dMMR solid tumor patients for anti-PD-1 immunotherapy, 09/22:53
Oncomine Dx Target approved as CDx to aid in therapy selection for patients with *RET* mutations/fusions in thyroid cancerst, 10/22:74
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BD launches software for flow cytometry research, 10/22:74
More than 120 medical associations to Congress: stop the cuts, 10/22:74
From margins to mergers, a long list of disruptors, 11/22:66
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FDA approves Ventana FOLR1 (FOLR1-2.1) RxDx as companion diagnostic, 12/22:46
Werfen to acquire Immucor, 12/22:46
Illumina introduces research panel for genitourinary pathogen ID, 12/22:45
Biocare Medical acquires Empire Genomics, 12/22:45

Q&A

When reporting reference ranges for absolute differential counts, should the ranges be age specific or is a single reference range acceptable? (Rosser), 01/22:55

Is it acceptable to use polystyrene tubes for aliquotting plasma for coagulation tests, such as platelet aggregation, and factor-related studies requiring serial dilutions of plasma? (Smock), 01/22:56

Are there established benchmarks for such transfusion services quality monitors as C:T ratio, blood product waste, and cancellation of suboptimal specimens? (Greebon, Desai), 02/22:65

If we collect only enough blood to inoculate one blood culture bottle, should we inoculate the aerobic or anaerobic bottle? (Sullivan), 02/22:66

Are Pancoast tumors a fast-growing, untreatable cancer? (Schneider, Higgins), 03/22:57

When performing reagent lot-to-lot correlation studies, some staff believe it is better to perform instrument calibration before a new reagent lot check while others believe calibration is not necessary. What is the appropriate practice? (Wielgos), 03/22:57

Is it necessary to perform a manual cell count for body fluids, including CSF, using a hemocytometer? Can clinical decisions be made based on low cell counts in body fluid reported by automated cell counters since these instruments have decreased precision and accuracy with low counts? (Galeotti), 04/22:60

Is there a time limit for a critical value? (Nichols, Eby), 04/22:60

What validation studies are necessary before implementing an alternative blood specimen collection tube? (Keller), 04/22:60

Should peritoneal dialysis fluid collected directly from a patient be considered peritoneal fluid or peritoneal dialysate fluid? (Chang), 05/22:52

What types of materials can be used to check new reagent lots on my chemistry analyzer? Is it necessary to perform reagent lot studies on all chemistry analyzers of the same model? (Parpart), 05/22:52

Can bronchoalveolar lavage specimens from multiple lobes be pooled for culture? Can multiple biopsies from the same joint be pooled for culture? (Kerantzas), 06/22:64

We verify our reference intervals with each new reagent lot for coagulation tests (PT, APTT, fibrinogen, and TT). What difference in values between lots necessitates establishing a new reference interval? (Smock), 06/22:64

When a patient has a hematocrit level of ≥ 55 percent and a normal PT and APTT, do you still correct sodium citrate and ask for a redraw? Is it crucial to ask for a redraw when the emergency department orders a stat PT and APTT? (Smock), 07/22:76

Obtaining an accurate blood glucose level is hindered by continued glycolysis in the evacuated tube post collection, even if a gray top tube is used. This leads to falsely low blood glucose levels. What can laboratories do to limit ex vivo glycolysis? (Sacks), 07/22:76

Every month, our anatomic pathology laboratory amends patient reports. Does the CAP have a benchmark for amended reports, such as how many

are acceptable per month? (Parkash, Aguilera, Hosseini, Auerbach), 08/22:42

What is the best practice for performing a urine specific gravity test? Which method is preferred – a refractometer or an automated dipstick? Should we correct for elevated glucose and protein or report high specific gravity? Should we correct for x-ray dyes or add a comment and list possible interfering substances? (Skleton), 08/22:42

The laboratory at which I work uses two PT programs— from the CAP and an alternate provider— for dermatologists who perform fungal smears. Our lab administers challenges for both programs every six months. The dermatologists have variably passed and failed challenges from both programs such that the record of satisfactory challenges alternates between the CAP and the alternate provider's programs. Is our approach allowed? Do we need to stick with a single PT provider for one year before switching? (Wielgos), 09/22:48

Should flow cytometry be used to test a cerebrospinal fluid specimen with known or suspected Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease? Our hospital administration is pushing to run such samples. I think the testing should not be done because it would contaminate the instrument and potentially endanger the flow techs. (Rhoads), 09/22:48

How many blocks should a histotechnologist with multiple responsibilities cut per day in a semiautomated laboratory? (Parkash), 10/22:66

Is it acceptable to release results from an analyzer with flags or alarms if a pathologist sends an email instructing to do so, even if the manufacturer's instructions state that results with flags or alarms should be verified by another method before reporting? (McCall), 10/22:66

How useful is an aPTT value if the value falls below the reference interval? (Chan, Ritter), 10/22:66

Is secretory change in endometrial hyperplasia acceptable in the absence of progestin therapy? What is the appropriate way to address an endometrial biopsy with secretory glandular changes and an increase in the gland-to-stroma ratio? (Parkash), 11/22:59

Is it necessary to accept or reject established target values based on total analytical error? Or is there an alternative way to do that? (Skelton), 11/22:59

Should an accelerated APTT result be canceled for being clotted, even in the absence of a visible clot? (Chan, Ritter), 11/22:59

What is the appropriate way to measure or identify microcytosis or macrocytosis? (Agarwal, Skelton), 12/22:43

Is there an optimal dose for RhIg or suggested timing of administration to prevent anti-D alloimmunization in a six-year-old female with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia and Rh-negative blood who is being treated with myeloablative chemotherapy to achieve durable remission or as a bridge to stem cell transplantation, during which supportive transfusions will include repeated platelet transfusions over many weeks? (Pagano, Uhl, Ramsey), 12/22:42

How many blocks? (Parkash), 12/22:42

Quality assurance/quality control/quality improvement

Histology lab tips for top-tier whole slide images, 07/22:01

Race/ethnicity

Race in medicine: Is it data or distraction?, 06/22:50

Rapid on-site evaluation

ROSE and telecytology: a point-of-care test, 05/22:42

Know the accreditation requirements for telecytology, 05/22:46

Recommended reading

p16 immunostaining in cytology specimens — a diagnostic pitfall, 01/22:47

Advances in detection of mesothelioma in cytology pleural fluid specimens, 08/22:36

Reference lab testing services/Send-out testing

Renal pathology/Renal disease

Residency/residents

At Penn State, a fast track to pathology residency, 03/22:05

Respiratory viruses/treatments/tests

A wait-and-watch season of respiratory viruses, 10/22:30

The who, what, and when of respiratory virus testing, 11/22:20

Rhinoscleroma

Rhinoscleroma in Southern California — diagnosis made by multidisciplinary investigation, 01/22:28

Risk assessment

First IQCP template set up for molecular tests, 04/22:01

Safety

Leaving behind outdated AST breakpoints, 05/22:01

Platelet transfusions: safety, cost, and workflow, 10/22:01

Screening tests (see also Diagnostic assays/markers/tests/test kits)

Why yearly testing of health care workers is a waste, 01/22:05

After the switch: high-sensitivity troponin, 02/22:01

Next-level testing for allergy, autoimmune disease, 03/22:22

Breast cancer breakthrough sparks HER2 quest, 06/22:01

Fluid cytology — key features and ancillary testing, 06/22:24

Emergency department tests HIV screening strategy, 07/22:05

A practical approach to borderline melanocytic neoplasms, 08/22:01

Infectious diseases of the gut, 08/22:16

Highs, lows of tumor mutation burden testing, 09/22:01

New data on rapid rule-out using high-sensitivity CTnT, 09/22:05

Sodium measurement — when the method matters, 10/22:05

A wait-and-watch season of respiratory viruses, 10/22:30

Is apolipoprotein B the best measure of CVD risk?, 11/22:01

In toxicology, puzzling out the unexpected negative, 11/22:05

The who, what, and when of respiratory virus testing, 11/22:20

Urine test ordering—good and going for better, 12/22:01

In toxicology, unraveling the unexpected positives, 12/22:18

Self-testing (see Point-of-care testing/guidelines/standards)

Sodium measurement

Sodium measurement—when the method matters, 10/22:05

Software (see Lab information systems)

Special stains

Special stains in the cytology laboratory, 01/22:47

Specimen collection and handling

Steps to preventing coag test processing error, 02/22:01

Speech recognition/Transcription

Staffing

Labs hunt for solutions to staffing, plastics, and blood supply shortages, 01/22:01

Staff out, instruments down—coping as the year begins, 02/22:20

Reaching for breakthroughs on burnout, 03/22:01

Pathology hospitalists in place at UMich, 04/22:01

Lab workforce crisis takes top spot, 04/22:01

Supply price hikes now as common as shortages, 04/22:05

High hopes for schools as lab positions go unfilled, 05/22:05

The cytopathology workforce through a DEI lens, 05/22:44

AACC session to zero in on cannabis and driving, 06/22:42

‘A struggle every day’—outpatient center decisions, 07/22:20

How close to patients? Cost, quality, competition, 07/22:48

Looking for lab staff, here, there, and overseas, 08/22:03

Savings, schedules, new automation—labs weighing it all, 08/22:33

'Staff love the change': moving to MLS and why it matters, 09/22:38
Canadian pathology study finds high burnout prevalence, 11/22:01

Standard of care

A single pathway for HIV testing and therapy, 06/22:01
Emergency department tests HIV screening strategy, 07/22:05
Ins and outs of low titer 0 whole blood use in trauma, 07/22:26

Surgical pathology

When surgical pathology is key to infectious disease, 05/22:19

Telecytopathology

ROSE and telecytopathology: a point-of-care test, 05/22:42
Know the accreditation requirements for telecytology, 05/22:46

Test ordering

Monoclonal gammopathies: which tests and why, 07/22:01
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Test standardization

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Thyroid disease/testing

The curious cases of medullary thyroid cancer, 03/22:36

Toxicology testing/consults

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Training (see Laboratory training)

Transfusions (see Blood banking/transfusions)

Transgender medical care (see also Diversity, equity, and inclusion)

Transgender care in and beyond the lab, 07/22:01

Trauma

Bright prognosis for brain injury biomarkers, 11/22:01

Troponin

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Tuberculosis

Why yearly testing of health care workers is a waste, 01/22:05

Tumor mutational burden

Highs, lows of tumor mutation burden testing, 09/22:01

Urinalysis/urinary tract infections/urinary cytology

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The rush to deliver integrated reporting in pathology, 02/22:46

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Lab information systems — where the needs are greater, 11/22:38

Virtual education

Two lab educators on keeping it virtual post-pandemic, 05/22:54

Visualization software/dashboards

Doctor develops dashboard to address sickle cell disease, 08/22:41

Waived tests

New for waived-only labs: a custom GEN checklist, 12/22:22

Whole slide imaging

Histology lab tips for top-tier whole slide images, 07/22:01

